



## Section 172 Statement

As the Trust Board at Hales Valley Trust, we have a legal responsibility under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 to act in the way we consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the company's success for the benefit of its members as a whole, and to have regard to the long-term effect of our decisions on the company and its stakeholders. This statement addresses the ways in which, as a Trust board, we carry out this responsibility.

### Promoting the Trust's success

The Trust is strongly committed to serving areas in the West Midlands region to transform the life chances of children and their communities through the highest quality teaching. Hales Valley schools serve areas with high levels of deprivation, high levels of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and with Special Educational Needs.

We feel that as an Academy Trust we are able to work creatively to best serve the needs of our children and our communities. We believe that we are stronger together – all schools sharing capacity, resources and expertise. We believe that collaboration is fundamental to providing the best learning opportunities through a meaningful curriculum where children and adults acquire the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to prepare and strengthen them for their role in society: today, tomorrow and in the future.

### Our pupils and parents

As a Trust, we put our pupils at the heart of everything we do. That is part of the Trust's culture: the parents of the pupils in our academies are continuously informed of the progress of their children and the safeguarding measures in place to ensure the safety of their children. We communicate with parents through letters, telephone or emails to ensure that they are constantly aware of the activities of the Trust. We organise parent-teacher meetings and listen to parents' concerns to improve the service we provide.

### Our employees

The Trustees recognise that employees are fundamental and key to delivering the strategic plan of the Trust. The success of the Trust depends on attracting, retaining and motivating employees. We help to engage with our employees by setting remuneration at the national level, and reward performance by providing a robust professional development pathway, relevant training and a range of employee benefits. The Trust offers an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) for all our staff, which is available 24/7 to assist staff with personal or work related problems that may affect their health, wellbeing and performance.

### Our suppliers

As a Trust, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in our business relationships with suppliers. We rely on them to deliver essential learning materials and catering supplies to our academies in a timely manner, and we ensure clear communication through emails, supplier forms, and formal letters regarding any changes to terms and conditions.

Suppliers also have a direct channel to contact the Trust for updates to their accounts, which are actioned promptly to avoid delays in payment. Throughout the financial year, we have remained committed to fair and prompt payment practices, ensuring continuity of critical services and supporting suppliers' cash flow.

## **Our regulatory funding partners**

The Trust Board believes that constant engagement with the DfE, Local Authorities and other government agencies is vital to our success. During the year, we have complied with all the financial and non-financial requirements of our donors and sponsors and submitted timely reports and returns. Our CEO and Executive Directors have ensured that our Trust adheres to all regulatory and legal requirements in delivering educational service and activities.

## **Our planet**

The Trust Board is committed to reducing our carbon footprint. During the year we have upgraded two new energy efficient water heater systems, in addition we tendered for our Waste Management and Recycling services which widened our separation for food and materials recycling to ensure we continue to dispose of waste responsibly and recycle materials where possible.

## **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit in determining the activities undertaken by the Trust and have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit. The Trust is keen to emphasise the public benefit provided by the Trust, which can be seen by the activities, and performance outlined within the Trustees' report.